Indian Soldiers and citizens in Foreign Jails

953. DR. B.B DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian soldiers and citizens are still imprisoned in foreign jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 30th June, 1997, country-wise;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government for their early release during the fiftieth year of our Independence; and

(d) the number of soldiers and citizens who were released from foreign jails during the last five years as a result of efforts made by Government, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) (b) and (d) The required information is being collected from our Missions/Posts abroad and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Missions/Posts, on receipt of information about arrest of an Indian national, promptly seek consular access to meet the Indian national. The Consular officer visits the detainee and tries to ascertain the grounds and circumstances leading to his arrest. Where necessary, the Mission takes up the matter at a higher level with the host Government for speedy and fair trial or review of sentence. The Indian Mission/Post concerned also takes care to see that Indian detainees are treated well in jails. The prisoners are released normally on completion of their terms of imprisonment. However, on humanitrain grounds, a number of Missions have succeeded in getting remission of sentences in deserving cases.

भारत-बंग्लादेश मैत्री संधि का नवीकरण

954. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारत-बंगलादेश मैत्री संधि की विशेषताएं क्या है;

(ख) यह संधि कब समाप्त होगी;

(ग) क्या भारत और बंगलादेश का इस संधि का नवीकरण करने का विचार है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(च) उक्त संधि के अंतर्गत अब तक व्यापार संबंधित कुल कितने समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किये गये है; और कुल कितने मूल्य का आयात/निर्यात किन-किन क्षेत्रों में किया गया है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा): (क) से (ङ) भारत और बंगलादेश के बीच मैत्री, सहयोग और शान्ति से संबंध संधि मार्च 1972 में सम्पन्न हुई थी और यह 25 वर्ष के लिए वैध थी। यह संधि 18 मार्च, 1997 को समाप्त हो गई है।

(च) मैत्री, सहयोग और शान्ति से संबंध संधि के अन्तर्गत व्यापार से संबंध कोई करार सम्पन्न नहीं हुआ है।

Supply of Russian M-17 Helicopters and T-80 Battle Tanks to Pakistan

955. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian M-17 Helicopters and T-80 Battle Tanks have found their way to Pakistan, inspite of Russian promise to India that these war equipments will not be supplied to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with Russia; and

(c) if so, the Russian response thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Russia has not supplied T-80 battle tanks or any other arms to Pakistan. In 1996 it sold to Pakistan twelve MI-17 helicopters, which are civilian transport helicopters. In response to approaches made by Government of India, as also on their own initiative, the Russian authorities have on several occasions given high level categorical assurances that Russia was committed not to supply arms to Pakistan. This